

# CURRENT NEWS **EARLY BIRD**

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## Russian arms deals with Iran worry U.S.

### Nuke aid may violate pledge to Clinton

By Bill Gertz  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Senior Clinton administration officials want Russia to halt recent nuclear weapons cooperation with Iran and have warned Moscow to abide by the 1995 pledge Boris Yeltsin made to President Clinton.

The issue is expected to come up during talks in Moscow later this week between Russian officials and White House National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger, who left yesterday to prepare for the upcoming Group of Seven economic summit.

Pentagon intelligence officials told The Washington Times that recent events have caused alarm among senior administration officials. They include:

- The planned visit of Iranian nuclear officials to Moscow later this month to view a demonstration of gas centrifuge technology — know-how used in enriching uranium for weapons.

- Russia's recent sale of radioactive tritium gas that can be used to increase the size of nuclear warheads.

- Ongoing discussions for a second sale of tritium that would double the amount of the gas in Iran's nuclear program.

According to the Pentagon officials, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, will visit officials at Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry, known as Minatom, later this month.

The Iranians have asked for a demonstration of "gas centrifuge uranium enrichment technologies" during the visit, said the officials, who said such demonstrations normally are done before equipment sales.

White House officials would not say what efforts are being taken to halt the demonstration.

The demonstration and any subsequent sales of equipment or expertise would violate a pledge

made between Mr. Clinton and the Russian president during a May 1995 summit, when the Russians agreed not to sell centrifuges to Iran as part of a nuclear reactor deal worth about \$800 million.

Details of the demonstration were outlined in a recent intelligence report sent to top government policy-makers.

Iran could make major strides in building nuclear arms if it acquires gas centrifuges, which are best-suited for making weapons fuel, said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, a Washington-based group that monitors weapons proliferation issues. "It would put in the hands of Iran the ability to produce nuclear weapons material," he said.

"Gas centrifuges were the technology of choice for the Iraqis," Mr. Milhollin said in an interview. "If successfully built and operated, the Iranians would produce the easiest kind of nuclear weapons material to use in a bomb."

U.S. concerns over Russia's continuing nuclear sales to Iran have been revived in recent months based on the new intelligence reports. Until recently, the issue has had a lower priority than U.S. diplomatic efforts to halt Moscow's sharing of missile technology and components with Iran.

The administration's special envoy on the issue, Robert Galucci,

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was given expanded authority last month to deal with Russian nuclear proliferation efforts in addition to the missile transfers, the officials said.

A senior White House official, who took part in the recent talks as part of a U.S. delegation that included Mr. Galucci, said he is aware of the planned Russian gas centrifuge demonstration for the Iranians.

The upcoming nuclear demonstration was not discussed directly with Russian officials at the time. "But we did press them about abiding by the 1995 commitment," he said.

The demonstration of gas centrifuges for the visiting Iranians would not constitute a weapons technology transfer, the official said. "Nonetheless, we would be concerned about the appearance

that there might be a weakening by Russia of the 1995 pledge," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said reports that Russia may violate its pledge not to share nuclear weapons technology with Iran are "further proof" that Moscow's proliferation activities "have not stopped."

"It is one more reason Congress must pass the Iran missile proliferation sanctions act," the Mississippi Republican told The Washington Times. The sanctions bill has passed the House and is expected in the Senate later this month. The White House opposes the bill.

A Russian Embassy spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters in Moscow on May 10, 1995, that the nuclear contract with Iran contained equipment for "peaceful

and military nuclear energy. ... Now we have agreed to separate those two."

The dual-use nuclear technology that could make "weapons-grade fuel," including centrifuges, was cut from the deal, the Russian leader said.

Regarding the radioactive gas, the Pentagon officials said Iran's Atomic Energy Organization is negotiating for a second purchase of Russian-made tritium that would double the amount of its tritium purchases to 10,000 curies, or about 1 gram.

The Iranians assert that the tritium will be used by the Tehran Nuclear Research Center as material for illuminating exit signs and instruments. The Russian firm Tekhsnabexport is exporting the radioactive gas that is being produced by Russia's Mayak facility, the officials said.

## Front-line Units Ready, Others Not, DOD Says

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WASHINGTON (AP) — While front-line U.S. military units are ready to go to war, maintaining a high level of preparedness among the entire 1.4 million-man fighting force remains "a challenge," the Defense Department's spokesman said Tuesday.

Responding to recent reports of spare part shortages in the field and under-manned units, Pentagon officials said the military is still able to fulfill its required capability of fight-

ing two major regional conflicts at nearly the same time.

Defense Secretary William Cohen and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, "believe that the first-to-fight forces are highly ready and are prepared to go when and where they have to go; and that maintaining readiness throughout the force is a challenge," spokesman Kenneth Bacon told reporters.

Bacon blamed some of the recent problems on interruptions in the funding stream for Pentagon accounts dedicated to such things as training, the military's day-to-day activities and maintenance of equipment.

Congress is working on the fiscal 1999 defense budget, and action remains to be taken on several other items dealing with military funding in the waning days of this fiscal year.

"It's a challenge that is be-

ing addressed aggressively by the services today. ... Key to being able to maintain readiness is congressional action on several pieces of legislation," Bacon said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, several military officers joined Bacon in stressing that while problems exist in secondary and tertiary units, those that are slated to be the first into battle stand ready to do what the nation requires.

## A Gamble On Forcing Israel's Hand

*U.S. Tries A Maneuver To Bring Israel To The Table*

By Barton Gellman  
Washington Post  
Staff Writer

LONDON, May 6—To the last moment, in intense private talks here with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, Israel's prime minister urged her not to make the public threat she delivered ever so gently Tuesday afternoon.

According to a knowledgeable account, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told Albright that ultimatums suit allies poorly and would only backfire with him. When it became clear he could not dissuade her, Netanyahu devoted their last brief meeting -- 15 minutes, all business, without the customary "camera spray" for photographers -- to bargain-

ing on the language that Albright would use.

Not long afterward, Albright strode into a Churchill Hotel ballroom packed with journalists and invited Netanyahu to a White House summit meeting on Monday -- if, and only if, he first accepts American proposals that include a pullback from another 13 percent of the West Bank. If not, she said, "we will

have to reexamine our approach to the peace process."

It was, baldly put, an attempt at coercion. The Clinton administration has not tried that before, but it has been heading slowly in that direction since it made itself a party to the Israeli-Palestinian talks about 18 months ago.

Albright stuck to the usual euphemisms, saying she sought "to bring the parties to the point of making the necessary decisions." Netanyahu publicly held out the possibility that "we

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can close the gaps." But the unvarnished transaction was this: Netanyahu had made decisions already, and the Clinton administration was determined to reverse them.

"They've crossed the Rubicon," said one European diplomat who follows the Israeli-Arab talks. "There's no way back now. What they've said is you are invited to Washington - if you say yes. That is a full confrontation."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was here in London too, but his assigned role was the agreeable foil and for once he played exactly that. Arafat, Albright announced, was invited to President Clinton's summit as well and already "accepted our ideas in principle."

In all this, the United States orchestrated a reprise of the maneuvers that brought Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's last Likud Party prime minister, to the Madrid peace conference against his better judgment in 1991. Shamir rejected the terms in private when the Bush administration invited him to the talks. But when the invitation was extended in public, and

when Syrian President Hafez Assad agreed, Shamir decided he had no other choice.

In this case the administration made a judgment, long before the Israeli-Palestinian deadlock had extended to its current 14 months, that the talks would die if the two sides were left to their own devices.

When other measures failed, Clinton committed the prestige of his presidency to impasse-breaking "ideas" by personally presenting them to Arafat and Netanyahu at the White House in January. Neither man liked the ideas much at first, but the more loudly Netanyahu balked the more Arafat saw an opportunity for a tactical alliance against his more powerful negotiating partner.

"It was an extremely bold plan even to draw up such a proposal," said an official from another foreign government. "Now the Palestinians are signed up to the plan, so the problem is not there. It has left [Clinton] with only one option, to put the squeeze on Bibi," as Netanyahu is casually known.

Netanyahu worked hard to avoid this day. When the ad-

ministration first began floating the prospect of making public its disagreements, he sent a parade of emissaries -- Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, national security adviser Uzi Arad, Cabinet Secretary Dani Naveh -- to argue for quiet diplomacy. He also helped orchestrate separate letters to Clinton from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Anti-Defamation League and 81 senators, all arguing that Israel must be permitted to make its own judgments on security.

The administration did not relish confrontation, but those who know her said Albright has been ready for some time. The challenge was -- and still is, as Netanyahu faces a Sunday deadline for deciding whether to fly to Washington the next day -- how to use a hint of confrontation to change his mind.

"The objective is not to produce a public breakdown of the process," said one administration official. "The objective is to produce agreement."

To that end the U.S. government has refused to date to

present a written package of ideas, giving the parties detailed oral briefings instead. And though the broad outlines of the package are known -- combining the 13 percent withdrawal over 12 weeks with new Palestinian security measures -- Albright and her spokesman decline to discuss them publicly in any way.

The administration is willing to preserve ambiguity about its plan if that allows Netanyahu to claim authorship of sufficient changes to justify signing up. In his first reactions to Albright, Netanyahu has preserved maneuvering room as well.

"I am prepared to be flexible where possible, but on the issue of security for the citizens of Israel I am not flexible," he told a gathering of his ruling Likud Party on arrival from London Tuesday night. Peace will not come easily, he added, "but we will reach peace."

One member of Albright's peace team, considering that forecast today, put it slightly differently. "He'll do the deal," the official said. "The big question is when."

## Pentagon asks Gulf cuts for morale, cost

By Rowan Scarborough  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Pentagon wants to significantly reduce ground and air forces in the Persian Gulf by mid-summer and will submit options later this month to President Clinton, senior military officers said yesterday.

With Gulf tensions receding, one officer said the Defense Department may ask to shrink force levels from the 38,000 troops to 20,000 and one aircraft carrier -- the Gulf deployment before Saddam Hussein began defying United Nations inspectors seven months ago.

Meanwhile, six senators yesterday put pressure on the White House to scale back, saying the increased deployment was draining defense dollars and morale.

"Clearly, I think it's time for us to reduce the deployment in the Persian Gulf and get it down to the point where people do not have to go back," said Sen. Ted Stevens, Alaska Republican and chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on defense. "I think this

repeated deployment to the same locale under the same conditions -- they cannot go off the bases, there's no towns for them to visit. ... They really are very confined. And that's leading to a long-term loss of morale."

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas Republican and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said: "I would describe the morale in the desert as adequate. There are very severe problems in that regard, and there's no question we're going to have to go through some kind of a deployment reduction here back to the precrisis levels."

One of two carriers in the Gulf, the USS Independence, is due to leave the region at month's end. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen on Tuesday ordered a possible replacement carrier, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, to depart the United States on June 10, as planned. The scheduling raises the prospect of leaving one carrier in the region as the first stage of a troop downturn.

At the White House, Mr. Clinton

told reporters, "Secretary Cohen has not recommended a final decision to me on this, and I have certainly not made one, and we've done our best to keep all of our options open."

On the morale issue, the president said, "One of the things I recognize is that as we ask more and more and more of our men and women in uniform, and they have longer deployments, we're going to have to work harder to make sure they get adequate support."

A senior military officer said planners want a new Iraq policy that doesn't involve the costly, morale-draining deployment of troops everytime Saddam acts up.

With Saddam less bellicose in recent months, the administration has sent signals it was considering a drawdown.

The administration's dilemma is cost vs. iron-fisted diplomacy.

The buildup is projected to require \$1.3 billion this year in extra defense spending. But withdrawing forces could wrongly signal Saddam that he again is free to

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defy U.N. weapons inspectors.

"We've got to get out of the mode that allows him to dictate what we do," said a senior military officer. "We're going to make it absolutely clear we're not going to react to his every whim."

The administration is discussing the option of coupling a withdrawal to precrisis levels with heightened U.S. warnings that defiance of U.N. weapons inspections would bring military strikes.

Another consideration is the weather: The region's intense summer heat is an unhospitable environment for soldiers housed in

tenis in Kuwait.

"Most of our troops stationed in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are in tents," a military spokesman said.

John Hillen, a former Army officer and analyst at the Council on Foreign Relations, said the administration is mistaken if it believes it can influence Saddam's behavior without robust military forces.

"It will be difficult to deter Saddam on the cheap. I don't know what model they're going to use," Mr. Hillen said. "There's no free lunch. You have to be excessively creative to not wear out our forces

by keeping them in the Persian Gulf, but at the same time to keep enough there to deter Saddam."

A senior officer at the Pentagon said the United States "lost the propaganda war" in the latest crisis with Saddam. Fewer nations now back continued economic sanctions as a lever to force Iraq to reveal its prohibited weapons of mass destruction.

"Saddam seems to gauge our threshold for tolerance, and he operates underneath that threshold," Mr. Hillen said. "He operates at just under the threshold where we would knock the crap out of him."

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## Only One Carrier In Gulf

*Independence's Departure To Leave Stennis Alone For 3 Weeks*

By Susanne M. Schafer  
AP military writer

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has decided the situation in the Persian Gulf has calmed enough to allow for a "temporary gap" in maintaining two aircraft carriers in the strategic waterway, military sources said Wednesday. One of the two carriers now there — the Independence — is scheduled to leave the gulf in late May. Because of a sched-

ule change in the departure of a third carrier from the United States, the John C. Stennis will be the sole aircraft carrier on station in those waters for about three weeks, maintaining the watch over Iraq. "There will be a gap, but it's not much, and we have done this before," said one senior military officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The decision means that the Norfolk, Va. based aircraft carrier Eisenhower, which had

been scheduled to leave for the gulf Wednesday, will remain in port until June 10. The president made no other moves to cut back on the number of forces, which now number 35,800, said two military sources.

But it comes as pressure has mounted on Capitol Hill to slim the deployments, which have proven costly both financially and in troop morale, lawmakers argue. There have been two carriers in the gulf

since the most recent crisis with Iraq erupted over the United Nations inspections of Saddam Hussein's weapons sites. The decision to place two carriers in the gulf offered military commanders dozens more warplanes, should the crisis over the inspections have offered the need for a military strike against Baghdad. There are about 355 U.S. warplanes in the region, onboard the two carriers and at air bases in several gulf states.

# House military panel calls for separate-sex training

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By Rowan Scarborough  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The House National Security Committee voted 30-23 yesterday to order the military to end mixed-sex basic training in small units, a rebuke to the Army, Air Force and Navy, whose battle cry is "we train as we fight."

The vote marked the first time one of Congress' armed forces committees has told the Pentagon to back off its continuing policy of mixing men and women in nearly every aspect of military life.

"All we're trying to do is get basic training back to training recruits, not social experimentation," said Rep. Gene Taylor, Mississippi Democrat.

Five Democrats joined 25 Republicans in voting down an

amendment by Rep. Tillie Fowler, Florida Republican, to strike language in the pending defense authorization bill to end mixed-sex training. The committee's five women — three Democrats and two Republicans — voted for the amendment.

Opponents of segregating the sexes are expected to try to knock out the prohibition again when the defense bill reaches the House floor this summer. If the directive survives, the issue will likely be settled in a conference between the House panel and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The House bill includes the unanimous recommendations of a Pentagon commission appointed by Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and headed by former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker, Kansas

Republican.

Finding lax discipline and distracted recruits, the 11-member panel urged Mr. Cohen to segregate male and female recruits at the small-unit level such as an Army platoon. It also called for housing them in separate buildings. The Army, Air Force and Navy rejected the proposal but did move to better isolate males and females inside coed dormitories. The Marine Corps trains the sexes separately at boot camp.

The issue of women in the military stirs passionate political debate. Yesterday's committee vote followed that pattern, with one member saying he was "insulted" by a female lawmaker's remarks.

Conservatives billed the vote as

instilling "common sense" into the training process. They said it wasn't fair to trainees or drill sergeants to closely mix young, sexually active men and women as they make the transformation from civilian to military.

Proponents called the legislation "a step backward," urging the committee to let the four services decide how they want to mold recruits.

"It will roll back opportunities for women," said Rep. Jane Harman, California Democrat. "It will reduce unit cohesion. . . . The best way to prepare a ready force is to train it together."

Noting the Army's sexual ha-

arrassment scandal that prompted the legislation, Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, Rhode Island Democrat, said, "We ought to be moving forward, not punishing the victim."

Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett, Maryland Republican, rested his case on the fact that the Baker commission — composed of men and women, black and white and of various professions — all agreed to small-unit separation.

"This wasn't that 'vast right-wing conspiracy,'" he said. "This was a broad cross section of America."

"God made us different," he said. "Worshipping at the altar of political correctness will not change that fact."

When Rep. Steve Buyer, Indiana Republican, said the issue would likely be settled in late summer by the Senate and House committee chairmen and two ranking Democrats, Mrs. Harman was offended.

"It strikes me as quite paternalistic" that four men would decide, she said.

"Let me be in touch with my feminine side for a moment," said Mr. Buyer, adding he was "insulted" by her remark.

The segregation of the sexes would begin by April 1999. The services would have until 2001 to construct separate buildings, with the Army estimating its costs at \$159 million.

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## Cuba Poses 'Negligible' Threat, Report Says

*Potential to Develop Biological Agents Still Concerns Defense Secretary Cohen*

By Dana Priest  
Washington Post  
Staff Writer

Cuba's military is weak and poses a "negligible conventional threat" to the United States and its neighbors, but Defense Secretary William S. Cohen remains concerned about a potential to develop and produce biological agents, the Defense Department reported yesterday.

Cohen's concern, transmitted in a letter attached to a threat assessment requested by Congress, was consistent with the Clinton administration's policy toward the communist island, including an economic embargo and sanctions against businesses that do business there.

The Cuba report became the subject of controversy when Cohen delayed its release in

March because, his spokesman said at the time, he wanted to read it. Other administration and defense officials said he ordered the delay to give others in the administration, notably the National Security Council, time to consider revisions that would harden the report to bring it into line with U.S. policies against the country.

Cohen said in his letter that he also remains "concerned about the use of Cuba as a base for intelligence activities directed against the United States, the potential threat that Cuba may pose to neighboring islands . . . and the potential instability that could accompany the end of [President Fidel Castro's] regime depending on the circumstances under which Castro departs."

A brief unclassified version of a longer classified report said Cuba has a biotechnology industry that "would be capable

of producing" biological weapons. Other defense and intelligence analysts have said there is no indication Cuba is actually trying to research such weapons and the Defense Department's 1997 report on weapons proliferation did not mention Cuba as a country to watch in this area.

The report gave a bleak assessment of Cuba's conventional military strength, which it says has been cut in half since 1989, when the breakup of the Soviet Union forced Moscow to abandon financial support. As a result, the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces were transformed from "one of the most active militaries in the Third World into a stay-at-home force that has minimal conventional fighting ability."

Prepared in coordination with the Defense Intelligence Agency, the CIA, the National

Security Agency, the National Security Council and the State Department, the assessment said the military's intelligence and counterintelligence systems remain intact, that Cuba shares its intelligence with U.S. adversaries and allows Russia to maintain a listening post at Lourdes that is the largest such complex outside the former Soviet bloc country.

In the area of "unconventional threats," the report said Cuba is unlikely to allow another mass exit of immigrants to U.S. shores because such a move discourages investment and tourism.

Finally, the report noted that Cuban attacks on protesting U.S. citizens -- the most notable being the February 1996 downing of two unarmed aircraft piloted by anti-Castro activists who flew into Cuban airspace -- "appear unlikely."

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## Data Show Marine Jet Well Below Height Limit

*Plane Low For 7 Miles Before Alps Accident*

By Steve Vogel  
Washington Post  
Staff Writer

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C., May 6—The Marine jet that caused the gondola cable tragedy in the Italian Alps was flying between 300 and 500 feet above the ground -- well

below required limits -- for at least seven miles before it severed cable lines and sent 20 people to their deaths, according to estimates presented today at a military hearing here.

The testimony bolstered investigators' claims that the accident was not a one-time altitude miscalculation but re-

sulted because the crew deliberately flew lower and faster than authorized through much of the ill-fated flight of the EA-6B Prowler.

The evidence came on the second day of a hearing to determine whether the two officers sitting in the back seat of the jet, Capt. William L. Raney

II, 26, and Capt. Chandler P. Seagraves, 28, should face a court-martial. The pilot of the plane, Capt. Richard Ashby, and the navigator, Joseph Schweitzer, face a similar hearing next month.

All four officers are charged with involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide, dereliction of duty and other offenses that expose them to a sentence of more than 200 years in prison.

The Feb. 3 accident infuri-

ated Italians, where some politicians have called for the expulsion of U.S. forces from Italy. In Washington today, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, following a meeting with President Clinton, was asked by reporters if he is satisfied with how the United States is dealing with the accident. Prodi said he received a "warm and prompt response" from Clinton but is "waiting for the future development of the case."

Clinton, appearing with Prodi at a news conference, called the accident "a horrible human tragedy" and said the United States has "done everything we could both to cooperate with the Italian government in the investigation of the case and to handle the disposition of the charges . . . in accordance with the agreements signed between our two countries."

Much of today's testimony focused on an analysis of the Prowler's flight path after it

took off from Aviano Air Base. As the jet streaked up a valley leading toward a cable line in a ski region, estimates made from a mission data recorder place the plane at altitudes of 370 feet, 301 feet and 436 feet above ground level.

Defense attorneys attacked the accuracy of the estimates, which a government witness conceded were imprecise and could be off by 100 feet. Nonetheless, the aircraft should not have flown below 2,000 feet, according to Italian regulations by which U.S. forces were operating.

Investigators had reported in March that many Marine pilots incorrectly believed the limit was 1,000 feet. Squadron members testified here that although the unit had been given information about the 2,000-foot limit, most crew members were unaware of it until after the accident.

Mark Fallon, the lead Navy

criminal investigator for the case, testified today that a pilot's card recovered from the cockpit following the accident described the 2,000-foot restriction.

Sometime after the flight, Ashby and Schweitzer filed reports stating that the low-altitude warning system on the aircraft had malfunctioned. But Master Gunnery Sgt. Louis Vitalino, a Marine investigator, testified that the reports had not been filed by the day after the accident, as would be expected. He said he discovered the reports, which were undated, in the file about a week later. They were returned to the crew members and were refiled with the date of Feb. 3, Vitalino said.

In other testimony, a Marine EA-6B instructor, Capt. Michael George, said Prowler pilots across the service were unhappy with even the per-

ceived 1,000-foot limit. But George testified he would have safety concerns about flying in mountainous terrain at the speed and altitude at which the crew is estimated to have been flying. The jet was traveling at speeds of up to 543 nautical mph, according to testimony today. "Once you get above [420 knots], it begins to get tougher to maneuver the aircraft," he said.

The prosecution finished presenting evidence this evening. On Thursday, the hearing officer, Lt. Col. Ronald Rodgers, accompanied by defense attorneys and prosecutors, is to visit the Marine Corps Air Station at nearby Cherry Point, where the defendants' squadron is based. They will examine the back seat of a Prowler, as part of the defense's contention that Seagraves and Raney had limited visibility and should not be held responsible for the accident.

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## Italian Leader Praises Handling of Tragedy

### Clinton Pledges 'Honorable' Crash Probe

By John F. Harris  
Washington Post  
Staff Writer

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi yesterday expressed satisfaction with the way the United States has handled the aftermath of the gondola crash in the Italian Alps caused by a low-flying Marine jet and praised President Clinton for "a very warm and prompt response to the problem."

At a time when U.S.-Italian relations are on a particularly solid footing -- the visiting prime minister called it a "magic moment" between the two nations -- both Prodi and Clinton seemed determined not to let February's tragedy spoil the mood.

Traversing a wide terrain of other issues at their joint news conference, Clinton and Prodi said they were in agreement about the need to ratchet up pressure on Serbia if it does not end its violent crackdown against Albanian separatists in the province of Kosovo and work toward a negotiated settlement. Although Clinton said "no option should be ruled

out," both leaders expressed reservations about military force as a solution.

Instead, Clinton said, "unconditional talks" should begin aimed at greater autonomy for Kosovo while preserving Serbia's territorial integrity. "There are 50 different ways this could be worked out in a humane, legitimate way," Clinton said. "They do not have to kill each other to get this done."

On another subject, Clinton said the decision to allow the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower to stay in home port until June 10, rather than accelerating deployment to the Persian Gulf, does not mean he has made a final decision on scaling back the enhanced military force he ordered to the region during last winter's military standoff with Iraq. Under the Pentagon's schedule, another carrier, the USS Independence, is scheduled to return home in late May, which would at least temporarily leave only one carrier in the region.

But Clinton said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen has not given him a final recommendation. "We've done our

best to keep all our options open," Clinton said.

Prodi, a 58-year-old former economics professor who has won acclaim for bringing Italy's historically undisciplined economy into line with stringent requirements for entry into the European single currency, was in Washington for meetings with Clinton and an official dinner last night.

As often happens when foreign leaders visit the White House, the afternoon news conference held by the two leaders was dominated by domestic political questions for Clinton. He twice declined to comment in any detail on this week's court ruling denying his claim of executive privilege to avoid having aides testify before the grand jury investigating the Monica S. Lewinsky controversy.

The Alpine gondola tragedy, which sent 20 skiers plummeting to their deaths, has been the most sensitive issue between the two countries in recent months.

"I cannot bring back the people who perished," Clinton said, "but I will do my best to

make sure that we behave in a completely honorable way and a way that is completely consistent with the commitments we have made."

A military hearing is underway in North Carolina to determine whether two officers seated in the back of the jet should face a court-martial and a similar hearing for the pilot and navigator is planned for next month.

On other matters, Clinton:

Said he is sympathetic toward the goal of warmer relations with Cuba but said he is "circumscribed" by congressionally imposed limits and by his own objections to human rights violations there.

Told an Italian reporter that objections by many Italians to widespread use of the death penalty in the United States should not be an impediment between the countries. "That is a matter of, essentially, domestic -- not foreign -- policy," Clinton said. "In our country, criminal defendants are given extensive procedural protections to avoid abuse, as well as extensive rights of appeal."

## Senate BRAC Supporters Unmoved By Peters' Memo On Competition

The controversy and outrage on the part of House lawmakers over an apparent attempt by a senior White House official to convince a private company to bid for the workload at McClellan AFB, CA, has not boiled over to the Senate, according to Senate supporters of further base realignment and closure rounds.

At issue is an April 26 memo from Acting Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters to Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre. In the memo, Peters says he is relaying a request from White House Deputy Chief of Staff John Podesta that Hamre encourage Lockheed Martin to bid for the McClellan work -- with the goal of keeping the work there -- in upcoming talks with the company's chief executive officer, Vance Coffman.

The memo was issued after only one team -- led by Boeing and Ogden Air Logistics Center, UT -- had shown interest in performing the McClellan work.

"The only effect of the memo will be to fortify the position of those who already have decided to oppose BRAC this year," one Senate staffer said on May 5. "The bottom line is the military needs more BRAC savings to pay for modernization, so the position of BRAC supporters has not changed."

Although not opposed to holding hearings on issues relating to the McClellan competition, another Senate aide and BRAC supporter said allegations of White House meddling in the depot competition is not reason enough to oppose the president's request for the passage of two more BRAC rounds with the fiscal year 1999 defense budget.

"They're really grabbing for straws and looking for excuses," the source said. "Those members who express concern that the services are underfunded, and that we are approaching a hollow force, are being hypocritical if they don't support more BRAC rounds."

Congressional leaders have the power, if they so choose, to include provisions in new BRAC legislation aimed at allaying fears that politics have tainted the BRAC process, the source added.

The Defense Department has been focusing most of its lobbying for two additional BRAC rounds in the Senate, where support for the request is strongest. However, most observers maintain the Defense Department will fail in its effort to drum up sufficient congressional support, since base closures are considered a political liability in an election year.

According to congressional sources, Sens. John McCain (R-AZ), Carl Levin (D-MI), Dan Coats (R-IN) and Charles Robb (D-VA) will spearhead efforts to include BRAC reauthorization in the FY-99 defense authorization bill (*Inside the Pentagon*, April 16, p1).

Defense Daily

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## Hamre: White House Encouraged Strong Depot Competition

By Frank Wolfe

At a recent White House meeting with a member of Deputy Secretary of Defense John Hamre's staff, the White House merely encouraged a strong depot competition for work done at a base in California, Hamre told *Defense Daily* yesterday.

"I wasn't at the meeting, but my special assistant was," Hamre said. "At no time were we told to do anything other than get as strong a competition as we can. We want to do that for ourselves because the stronger the basic competition, the more we'll get savings from it. We weren't asked to do anything other than what we wanted to do."

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary William Cohen mandated the removal of acting Air Force Secretary Whitten Peters from the source selection process in an ongoing depot maintenance competition for the depot maintenance workload now done by Sacramento Air Logistics Center (ALC) at McClellan AFB, Calif. (*Defense Daily*, May 6).

Cohen has directed the Air Force to appoint independent advisers to help in guaranteeing that the source selection process is fair and open. Cohen's order comes as the Air Force faces a storm of criticism from members of the House Depot Caucus who see a White House attempt to inject itself into the process.

In an April 26 memo, Peters said that White House Deputy Chief of Staff John Podesta had asked Hamre to encourage Lockheed Martin [LMT] to bid in the depot competition and to perform the work at Sacramento ALC. So far, just one team--Boeing [BA] and Ogden ALC at Hill AFB, Utah--have shown interest in bidding on the Sacramento work, which consists of KC-135 tanker maintenance and industrial commodities repair. The Boeing/Ogden proposal would move the work to Kelly AFB, Texas.

President Clinton, in his 1996 reelection campaign, promised his backing for the retention of jobs at bases in vote-rich states--at McClellan and San Antonio ALC at Kelly.

The Peters memo stated that the Sacramento depot commander told Peters that Lockheed Martin "appears to be ready to bid with a team that includes AAI (hydraulics) and GEC Marconi" and that Lockheed Martin and the possible partners are "90% in agreement." But Lockheed Martin "is still holding out the possibility" of moving the work to its aircraft repair facility in Greenville, S.C., "apparently to get bargaining leverage against the city" of Sacramento, the memo said.

David Jewell, spokesman for Lockheed Martin ALC in Greenville refused to comment on the Peters memo. "We're going to do it as quickly as we can," he said of the company's evaluation whether to bid to keep the work Sacramento or to transfer it to Greenville's ALC. "The Request for Proposals will drive how quickly we make the decision."

Hamre said yesterday that Lockheed Martin was "quite interested" in teaming with McClellan but that he did not raise the subject in a meeting with Lockheed Martin chief executive officer Vance Coffman. "I didn't bring up the subject," Hamre said. "I didn't have to. The only thing the White House asked us to do was to find out if they were interested or not. I don't need to ask the CEO of a

corporation to figure that out."

The Peters memo does not indicate White House pressure, Hamre said. "It wasn't written very well," he said. "But if you read it without paranoia in your heart you'll see the memo was really just saying, 'Get a strong competition. Try to get a good teammate for McClellan.' Frankly, I would have done that for Ogden. Had the shoe been on the other foot and Ogden had been struggling to get a teammate I would have worked to try to get them one."

Cohen's independent panel may satisfy those on Capitol Hill concerned about the appearance of political influence by bringing more scrutiny to the source selection process.

"People don't realize it, but the source selection process is so disciplined and objective, you can't throw it to begin with. But we're going to bring even more scrutiny to that," Hamre said. "We already have the General Accounting Office looking over our shoulder every step of the way. There's going to be total objectivity. So it wasn't hard for us to say we're willing to have an outside board of advisers."

Industry should have faith in the Pentagon's source selection process, Hamre said. "The message to industry is that this is going to be like every other competition we hold. It's going to be on the merits. Price is important. Performance is important. It's going to be a heckuva horse race, and the best bid is going to win." The Air Force is due to select the winners of the McClellan and Kelly competitions by Sept. 30.

The acquisition rules have not changed, but in the heated environment surrounding the Base Realignment and Closure process, it is easy for some to link the Peters' memo with political influence, Hamre said.

"All of the stress and tension of the politics of base closures are manifested here by the paranoia there's something going on," he said. "There is nothing going on. We haven't changed a single ground rule in preparing bids. We haven't changed a single criteria for evaluating bids. Absolutely nothing has happened here to change the way this was laid out. Everybody felt comfortable with it a week ago. Then a poorly written memo comes out and now everybody seems to be paranoid. Absolutely nothing has happened. And I've met with all of the people from the Utah and Oklahoma delegations to reassure them that."

Washington Times

May 7, 1998

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# Lockheed impasse may end with deal

By Anne Marie Squeo  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Attorneys for Lockheed Martin Corp. and the Justice Department told a federal judge yesterday a settlement is possible in the government's antitrust suit seeking to block Lockheed's proposed \$11.3 billion purchase of Northrop Grumman Corp.

During a pretrial hearing, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan twice asked whether the two sides would be able to negotiate a settlement that would avoid a trial and allow the transaction to proceed.

When he approached the question the second time at the hearing's end, Lockheed Martin attorney Robert Joffe and Justice Department attorney Melvin Schwartz said they'd consider discussing a settlement and having the court appoint a special mediator.

"After we get some discovery, it may be a more appropriate time to

have some discussion," Mr. Joffe said in response to Judge Sullivan's question. Discovery is the process in which both sides share information about a case before trial.

"We have very sophisticated attorneys on both sides, and we can always talk," said Mr. Schwartz, who noted a decision on a settlement would be made by Justice Department antitrust chief Joel Klein and others at higher levels.

News of these statements boosted shares of both Northrop and Lockheed Martin. Northrop jumped \$3 to \$109.59, while Lockheed Martin's stock rose \$1.59 to \$113.20.

A breakdown in talks led to the Justice Department's March 23 lawsuit against the companies' proposed combination. That suit charged that the union would create monopolies and near-monopolies in numerous defense-related areas and give the resulting company the power to cut out third-party suppliers.

The comments from attorneys

came during a hearing about whether the federal government can invoke special attorney-client privileges on documents the companies are seeking in the case.

On that front, Judge Sullivan, after reprimanding the government for stonewalling, ordered a random sampling of documents the government deems privileged so he could review them. He also ordered the Justice Department to file an affidavit with the court that lists the reason why each and every document listed as privileged should be protected as such.

The government argues that releasing documents detailing deliberations related to the merger review process done by both the Justice and Defense departments would have a "chilling" effect on future transactions being reviewed. The companies contend that the government is using special privileges as both a "sword and a shield" in this case and that they need these documents to defend themselves during trial.

Washington Post  
May 7, 1998  
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## U.S., Ukraine Sign Nuclear Technology Deal

**KIEV, Ukraine**—Ukraine and the United States signed a deal that will allow the former Soviet republic to import technology to revamp its troubled nuclear industry.

"This agreement will be the cornerstone in the development of a strategic partnership between our countries," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk said after the signing ceremony.

The deal was made possible after Ukraine bowed to U.S. pressure in March not to build turbines for Iran's planned Bushehr nuclear power plant.

# Cocaine And High Cost Of Helicopters

*White House, Congress Feud Over Extent Of U.S. Anti-Drug Support For Colombia*

By Douglas Farah  
Washington Post  
Foreign Service

SAN JOSE DEL GUAVIARE, Colombia—On a government airstrip here in the sweltering heart of a no man's land roamed by Marxist guerrillas, drug traffickers and right-wing death squads sits a row of six UH-1H helicopters, the primary weapon Colombian police have to combat both the flow of drugs to the United States and the spread of lawlessness here.

But the helicopters can't fly. They are part of an aging fleet of 36 "Hueys" provided to Colombia by the United States -- most of which have been grounded over the past two months because of mechanical problems, seriously eroding the ability of police to find and destroy cocaine and heroin laboratories, detect clandestine airstrips and interdict drug shipments flowing northward.

"Virtually all our interdiction activities have been halted, from moving troops to destroying labs and landing strips," said a senior official of Colombia's anti-drug police. "There are 140 troops here with nothing to do. The narcos are moving more stuff than ever because they know we can't do anything about it. This situation is unprecedented for us."

Helicopters are vital to drug interdiction because there are no roads through the jungle, distances are vast, detection of laboratories from the ground is virtually impossible and access by river is slow and dangerous. But virtually all 36 Hueys here have been grounded by structural flaws brought on by age; most were used by U.S. forces in the Vietnam War. In the past 10 days, 15 have undergone emergency repairs that allow them to resume flying temporarily, State Department officials said, but for how long is unclear.

In addition to stalling interdiction activities, the grounding of the helicopters has fanned an acrimonious debate between the White House and congress-

sional Republicans over the kinds of anti-drug aid that the United States should be giving Colombia, which produces 80 percent of the world's cocaine and a growing portion of its heroin.

The dispute has led to a congressional freeze on \$36 million that the administration wanted to spend in Bolivia and Colombia to pay for drug eradication and crop substitution efforts. Senior administration officials say the freeze will undercut programs that have helped sharply reduce the cultivation of coca leaf -- the raw material for making cocaine -- in both Peru and Bolivia.

The debate is one element of a broad battle involving the White House, Congress and the Pentagon over what role the United States should play in Colombia. Not only do drug traffickers exercise considerable economic and political influence here in southern Colombia, but some are closely allied with Marxist guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, while others are closely allied with right-wing paramilitary groups that operate with the tolerance and support of the army and have little regard for human rights.

The Clinton administration is trying to walk a fine line, aiding the Colombian police and army in combating drug trafficking without becoming involved in the government's counterinsurgency efforts -- a line senior administration officials concede is often blurred at best. Many in Congress, especially on the Republican side, are pressing the administration to take a more active role in Colombia's anti-guerrilla campaign and increase aid to the military and police because there is now little distinction between rebel forces and drug suppliers.

Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.), who chairs the House Committee on International Relations, has been demanding that the administration upgrade Colombia's police helicopter fleet by spending the \$36 million on three UH-60 Black

Hawk helicopters because they can carry more troops, fly higher and are less susceptible to ground fire than the Hueys. Non-binding language urging the purchase was included in the fiscal 1997 budget.

The State Department argues that the older Hueys can be upgraded and repaired much more cheaply and that the Colombian police do not have the training or budget to maintain the Black Hawks.

"A Huey costs \$1.4 million [to buy] and \$925 an hour to fly," said a senior administration official. "That is versus \$8 million for a Black Hawk with an operating cost of \$2,250 an hour. Black Hawks are not cost effective, and the Colombians don't need that much capability."

Earlier, Barry McCaffrey, the Clinton administration's anti-drug policy chief, said that the administration opposes buying the Black Hawks because "this massive diversion of scarce resources would result in a 75 percent cut in U.S. support to Bolivia and huge decrements for our counter-drug programs in the Caribbean, Mexico and Peru. The cost of procuring and operating three Black Hawk helicopters would degrade our ongoing anti-drug efforts in Colombia and undermine regional success against the cocaine trade."

On Friday, the State Department notified Congress and Gilman that it would not purchase the Black Hawks. Gilman, in a letter sent Monday to Thomas R. Pickering, under-

secretary of state for political affairs, accused the administration of "trying to fight the war on drugs on the cheap" and said that upgrading the existing fleet of Hueys had been promised by the administration for the past two years but never carried out.

"It makes no sense to merely upgrade 40-year-old equipment that is already grounded or not operating and cannot survive crashes or ground fire as well as the Black Hawk," Gilman wrote. "Let's get serious and fight this scourge with the tools and equipment our good friends ... want and need to fight our fight, at its source."

On Monday, Gilman exercised his power as committee chairman to place a hold on the \$36 million, meaning that if the money is not spent on Black Hawks, it cannot be spent at all.

There is no end in sight to the stalemate. "The tragedy is that nothing is flying in Colombia, and if the State Department would have upgraded when we asked them to they could be flying now," said a Republican congressional aide. "This administration is quickly losing any and all credibility fighting the war on drugs in Colombia."

"We have offered Gilman briefings on our alternative proposals, which he has not accepted," an administration official countered. "The situation in Colombia is very serious. We will try to work with others on the Hill who are more supportive of our position."

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## U.S. Criticizes Yugoslavia On 'Dangerous' Military Buildup

By R. Jeffrey Smith  
Washington Post  
Staff Writer

The Clinton administration sharply criticized the Yugoslav government yesterday for undertaking what a senior official described as a "large-scale" deployment of infantry, tanks

and artillery near the country's southern border with Albania, calling it a "dangerous provocation" that could inflame regional tensions.

U.S. officials said the border deployment amounted to a roughly battalion-sized military force and described it as just one part of a substantial recent

influx of additional Yugoslav security personnel and regular army troops from Serbia into the southern province of Kosovo.

A Connecticut-sized area that is home to roughly 2 million people, Kosovo has been the site of rising tensions and sporadic violent clashes between Serb security forces and its 90 percent population of ethnic Albanians, who almost universally favor the creation of an independent state.

President Clinton's special representative for the Balkans, Robert S. Gelbard, painted a grim picture yesterday of conditions in the province and reiterated a warning that the tensions could destabilize Albania and neighboring Macedonia if not settled soon through negotiation.

"The heavy-handed . . . resort to force and atrocities rather than dialogue" by Yugoslavia's leadership in Belgrade is producing "increased radicalization" in Kosovo, Gelbard said, adding that Serb and Albanian extremists are both becoming more numerous and influential. The Serb special police, or paramilitary units, in

Kosovo have tripled in size in the past two months, he said.

President Clinton, appearing at a news conference with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, also complained about Yugoslavia's actions in Kosovo. "We must and will be ready to substantially turn up the pressure on Belgrade should it keep blocking the search for a political solution or revert to indiscriminate force."

The new U.S. complaints were made as a Russian deputy foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, told news agencies in Belgrade that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic may be closer to accepting the principle of international mediation of the dispute, which Milosevic has long claimed was a strictly internal affair.

State Department officials said they welcomed any Russian effort to pressure Milosevic but remain skeptical that he will accede in time to avoid the imposition of new sanctions against Yugoslavia on Saturday, including a ban on new foreign investments. That timetable for new sanctions was set by leading Western governments on April 29, fol-

lowing an earlier threat in March to punish Yugoslavia unless it agreed to begin negotiations without conditions.

Gelbard, who appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Europe, said that while Yugoslavia has a legitimate right to defend its borders, the government's avowed aim of stopping the smuggling of arms by small groups of Albanian extremists in remote mountain passes "does not track with the large-scale deployment of tanks and artillery."

He added that Washington and its allies have warned Yugoslavia "in no uncertain terms" not to stage any military operations on Albanian or Macedonian territory. But neither Gelbard nor other U.S. officials have specified what the consequences would be, and he declined during questioning to address the issue of whether a unilateral U.S. threat in 1992 and 1993 to use military force in Kosovo remains in effect.

Clinton and Prodi, asked about a possible deployment of Western troops, said they had not discussed the idea. Neither country wants to get into a

position where they have to "send troops every time there's a dispute in that part of the world," Clinton said. Prodi noted that "whenever you send troops, you send hostages -- potential hostages -- to the situation."

This approach got a scathing review at the hearing from several independent experts, who argued that Balkan experience proves Milosevic will bend only under the threat of direct military attack by the West. Washington is repeating all its mistakes during the 1992-95 Bosnian conflict by employing empty threats, wrangling publicly with its allies, holding endless international conferences and imposing limited sanctions, said John Fox, director of the Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute.

"Irresolute U.S. policy has given a de facto green light that Milosevic has exploited effectively," said Balkan Institute Director James R. Hooper. He said the administration's efforts to date were marked by "the avoidance of risk, engagement and responsibility."

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## Serbian Forces Prepare For Offensive In Kosovo

*Russia Urges Milosevic To Accept Mediation In Conflict With Albanian Rebels*

By Guy Dinmore  
Special to The  
Washington Post

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, May 6—Ethnic Albanians in the villages of Kosovo are digging trenches, smuggling in arms and food and peering at the enemy with binoculars.

Up on the bare hills and ridges Serbian police are reinforcing sandbagged checkpoints and bringing in heavy weapons.

For the moment, the low-level war in Serbia's restive southern province has reached a military stalemate. But Serbian Interior Ministry forces and the federal Yugoslav army, now in control of highways by day and the major towns, are positioned to launch a full-scale offensive against Albanian separatist rebels.

Western military observers say Belgrade's military, weak-

ened and demoralized by the wars that broke up much of Yugoslavia, knows no other way. "Their training is woefully ineffective," one diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Their concept of tactics is like Bosnia -- blow the hell out of it and send in the nasties."

This was the approach used by special police forces against strongholds of the Kosovo Liberation Army in the Drenica region of central Kosovo in late February and early March.

Farmsteads were razed and, according to diplomats, some of the captured Albanians were killed. About 30 women and children were among the dead.

Lacking the money and means, the government in Belgrade cannot afford to fight a protracted guerrilla war. Neither the mainly conscript army nor the police have training in counterinsurgency. They lack

night-fighting equipment and their intelligence-gathering is limited in a hostile environment where ethnic Albanians, in tightly knit clans, make up around 90 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people.

An overwhelming majority of the Albanians seek independence from Serbia, the dominant republic in what remains of Yugoslavia, a demand that finds no international support.

The army says it has successfully ambushed armed groups bringing weapons over the mountains that mark the formidable, 60-mile-long border with Albania. But experts say the frontier is impossible to seal.

Both the federal army and the Serbian police are some 140,000-strong. Many have had minimal training, are poorly motivated and badly equipped. The full size of the

army and police contingent deployed in Kosovo is not publicly known but reportedly numbers in the thousands.

The Kosovo Liberation Army, which may be able to muster a core of about 500 fighters, roams freely at night and regularly raids exposed and poorly constructed police posts. Children playing soccer by their villages and old men in cafes and fields provide a network of observers.

Armed villagers not formally a part of the Kosovo Liberation Army are providing shelter and supplies.

"We are getting more organized," said one village leader who had been an officer in the former Yugoslav army. "We have a horizontal network between villages and a vertical command structure."

If Milosevic defies warnings by foreign countries and international organizations and goes for the all-out military option, he risks exacerbating divisions within the Yugoslav army and between the army and police.

Relations between Milosevic and Gen. Momcilo

Perisic, the army chief of staff, are poor, and rumors of the general's impending dismissal have circulated in Belgrade for months.

Perisic caused a storm in January when he suggested that the future of the army lay in cooperation with NATO and its Partnership for Peace program. Many officers are said to be bitter that Milosevic's more-trusted Interior Ministry forces have been beefed up at the expense of the army, which can-

not even afford to pay its foot soldiers.

Recent comments by Serbian officials have indicated that a major offensive is planned. Certainly large numbers of armored vehicles -- police and army -- have taken up new positions in recent days.

In Pristina, the provincial capital, Veljko Odalovic, the Serbian governor of Kosovo, said the goal of what Serbians call the Kosovo "terrorists" is

to move the Albanian border eastward, linking it with the nearby region of Decani, and then on to the central Drenica area. "We are in position to prevent that, to use serious force to eliminate the danger to our border and our territory," he said. "No price is too high to pay."

Nationalist rhetoric carried on state media has prepared Serbs for this final reckoning of accounts in a land revered as the cradle of Serbian civiliza-

tion before its conquest by the Ottomans six centuries ago.

"Some Western powers have constantly been encouraging the Albanian separatists openly to start a war but the Albanians know very well what is in store for them in a possible war," proclaimed Vojislav Seselj, a paramilitary leader during the wars in Bosnia and Croatia and now a deputy prime minister in the Serbian government.

European Stars & Stripes

May 7, 1998

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## NATO Looking At Its Options In Kosovo Crisis

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — With the crisis worsening in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, NATO's top policy-making body instructed its military authorities Wednesday to begin examining a range of options for further NATO action.

Kosovo Albanians make up 90 percent of the province's population, most of whom want independence from Serbian dominated Yugoslavia. More than 150 people have died in a two-month Serbian crackdown

on ethnic Albanian militants.

NATO officials insisted, however, that the options under review by military authorities are aimed at helping the Albanians help themselves rather than a direct involvement of NATO military forces.

The North Atlantic Council, made up of NATO's ambassadors, reviewed both the situation in Albania and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, both of which have border security concerns.

NATO plans to set up a three-man office in the Albanian capital, Tirana, and continue sending small teams to help the Albanian armed forces with training and border control. NATO wants to see how much can be done under the auspices of the Partnership for Peace program, of which Albania is a part. It will be examining what help it can offer with equipment and further training to allow the Albanians to monitor their border more effectively.

Wednesday in Kosovo, Albanian militants attacked a Serbian police patrol, killing an officer and wounding two more, police said. An attacker also was killed. In a separate incident, an Albanian politician belonging to a pro-independence party was shot to death.

Pressure appeared to be growing on the Serbs to accept Albanian demands of foreign mediation of any talks between the two ethnic groups.

Chicago Tribune

May 6, 1998

## Navy Calls Long-Distance To Connect With Hispanics

By John Flink,  
Special To The Tribune

Citing the accomplishments of Hispanic sailors over the last century and their opportunities for the future, Secretary of the Navy John Dalton told a global audience Tuesday that the U.S. Navy is officially stepping up its efforts to recruit and retain Hispanics.

Dalton made his address from the Pentagon during a satellite teleconference that linked sailors, Navy brass, reporters and family members at more than 20 sites around the world, including ships at sea.

The conference, picked up locally at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, was scheduled to coincide with the

celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

The 50,000 Hispanics in the Navy and Marine Corps represent about 9 percent of the Naval Service's total troop strength, Dalton said, even though about 12 percent of all Americans are of Hispanic descent. This imbalance should change, he said.

"Our goal is to have our Navy, at the officer and enlisted ranks, reflect society," Dalton said. "We want people from across the spectrum of society to know that the Navy and Marine Corps are great places to start a career or make a career."

That requires making Hispanics aware of the opportunities presented by a career in the Navy, including training, education and travel, Dalton said, and showcasing the achievements of Hispanics already there, such as Adm. Joseph Lopez.

Although the transmission was sometimes choppy and hard to follow, the teleconference allowed reporters, sailors

and commanding officers to trade questions with the secretary from as far away as the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis, which is patrolling the Persian Gulf.

"You get to meet a lot of people from all over the world," said Seaman Laura Moreno, speaking over the sound of a jet taking off from the flight deck of the USS Stennis.

"It's good to have the competition with men and women too," Moreno said.

Moreno joined the Navy three years ago after graduating from her high school's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in Houston, she said.

Fluency in Spanish is an asset, especially when ships are in port or on maneuvers near Central and South America or Spain, where the Navy main-

tains a base, officials said.

"When we go to a Spanish-speaking country, we have to talk to the tugboat operators when we go into port," said Petty Officer First Class Antonio Soto, 34, a Chicagoan with 14 years in the Navy who is stationed at Great Lakes. "Then, when we go into town everybody sticks close to me because I can speak the local language."

The strict demands placed upon sailors takes ethnic or racial discrimination out of the equation, the Hispanic sailors agreed.

"It's never been a matter of color here," said Chief Petty Officer Michael Calvillo, 39, a 19-year Navy veteran from Chicago who is also at Great Lakes. "We all start out in the same blue uniform. Where we go from there is up to us."

# US Troops Watch, Wait In Kuwait

*Rapid deployment against Iraq worked.*

*But when 35,800 Americans can head home is as ephemeral as the desert wind.*

Scott Peterson  
Staff writer of The  
Christian Science Monitor

IN THE CENTRAL KUWAITI DESERT- Some things remind American soldiers in Kuwait they are on the "front line" facing Iraq. Almost all of them have been vaccinated for the biological agent anthrax, and a field chaplain closes a staff meeting with the prayer "We ask for Your protection and guidance. Amen."

But the same meeting, held in a green tent on a wind-swept patch of desert turned into an armored battalion base, illustrates how far away seems the February crisis, when military action against Iraq seemed inevitable.

As the Pentagon and the White House wrestle with the questions of if, when, and how to begin pulling troops out of the Persian Gulf, soldiers on the ground have eased into a daily routine and look toward going home.

Some 35,800 American troops are in the region now, double the usual number. Most are kept in a difficult-to-sustain high state of alert. Yesterday, a group of US senators back from a fact-finding trip to the region said they found the state of the troops' morale to be extremely low. The White House says President Clinton will decide whether to reduce forces soon. Yesterday a senior US military source said the USS Independence, one of two US aircraft carriers in the region, would be rotated out in late May but would be replaced within three weeks of that date.

So far, these troops have not been asked to go to war. But they have already accomplished one significant mission. Senior commanders say that the speed with which troops moved from American bases to positions in the Kuwaiti desert in February has been unprecedented. They say that success has validated the Pentagon's

plan to pre-positioning military equipment in the Persian Gulf.

But on the ground, such mega-issues aren't the first thing on soldiers' minds. Anything to boost morale is. Field commanders hear reports about the upcoming barbecue night, the makeshift softball league, and the need for more fire extinguishers in the primitive toilets. Night-fishing trips are under way, and a five-day work week is taking shape.

## Keeping up momentum

On the 76<sup>th</sup> day of the deployment Tuesday, the 3-69<sup>th</sup> Armored Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Mike Altomare, spoke to his officers about safety. There were too many speeding vehicles around camp, he warned, and not wearing seat belts "continues to be a problem."

Considering the energy-charged circumstances into which these troops arrived - expecting combat within days of rushing to the Middle East from the United States - keeping the momentum is now a top priority.

"It's been a challenge to keep the soldiers focused," says Colonel Altomare. "But the reason we are here is because the guy up north [Iraqi President Saddam Hussein] was messing around, and there is no reason to think he won't do it again."

Some soldiers speak almost wistfully about Feb. 23, when "peace broke out" as United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan made a deal with the Iraqi leader to allow the UN to continue inspecting sites inside Iraq.

To keep rumors of imminent departure in check, Altomare gathers all his hundreds of soldiers together every 10 days and tells them all that he knows about going home. So far, that hasn't been much.

The departure from the United States was emotionally charged, he says, because of threats of war from both

Washington and Baghdad.

"It is the first time in 19 years of service," Altomare says, "[that] my wife cried when I left."

"There is always a feeling of adrenaline upon arrival, because it looks like there will be military action," says US Army Maj. Gen. Robert Ivany, deputy coalition task force commander in Kuwait. "The provocative noise out of Iraq has gone down, but there is a degree of unpredictability to keep in mind."

Though soldiers can't wait to leave their hot desert encampments, he says, "they understand that the first American on a plane [home] is a signal to the world."

The other signal to the world from this emergency deployment, however, showed itself in the buildup to the February crisis.

For years, American commanders have had to negotiate the political minefields of the Gulf as they kept a force of some 20,000 troops in the region to enforce the US policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran and to protect oil-rich allies such as Saudi Arabia.

Despite expressing official gratitude for the support, some of these allies also must contend with an Arab perception that American troops are here to stay and that they may prove disruptive.

Tiny Kuwait, bordering its much more powerful neighbor Iraq to the north, has been the most open to American forces. The US-led Gulf War coalition ousted invading Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991.

But elsewhere, relations are trickier. Saudi Arabia hosts a large US Air Force presence south of Riyadh, the capital. But those planes were denied permission to launch against Iraq during the last few crises. US pilots at Turkey's Incirlik air base were slapped with similar restrictions.

## 'Everything went quickly'

So to get around those hurdles, Washington sent an armada of warships to boost the Navy's Fifth Fleet, headquartered in Bahrain.

Key elements of the rapid deployment were pre-positioned tanks and armored vehicles in Kuwait and Qatar. "We're very proud of this," General Ivany says. "We've got the system down: You land, go to your tank, get your ammo, and in six hours you are in the desert."

"At first I thought they were kidding when they said six hours," says Pvt. Domingo

Campos of San Francisco, a crewman on a Bradley fighting vehicle. "But then it happened - everything went very quickly."

The base used by American troops at Camp Doha, just west of Kuwait City, in peacetime is tightly packed like a parking lot with armored vehicles. But today most of the hardware is deployed in border areas with Iraq, and the empty lots of Camp Doha give it the air of a ghost town.

Pleased as the top brass may be with the speed of the deployment, maintaining morale when the enemy sinks below the horizon is not easy.

"Our biggest problem now is to keep these guys fired up, to fight boredom," says Sgt. Maj. Roger Roley as the strong desert wind tears at the canvas tent flaps.

"Anything we can do to keep their minds off home, we do it. We've been successful so far - there's been no uprising yet," he says.

The troops have taken advantage of the wide-open desert for large-scale training exercises that would be almost impossible at home. Officers also say that integrated training between the Army, Air Force, and Marines is much easier to carry out here.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga., makes up roughly 6,000 of the 10,000 or so American troops in Kuwait. It was due for a session at the National Training Center (NTC) in California in March, where units are put through all their paces and graded.

Because they were deployed, however, commanders persuaded 38 "observer con-

trollers" from the NTC to come to Kuwait and replicate the training course.

Simulations, live-fire exercises, and war games with coalition partners, mostly Kuwaiti units, have also been conducted.

But the desert has particular requirements. "When you shoot at a US installation, it is all fenced and controlled," says Maj. Russ Oaks, a public-affairs officer with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry.

"But here there are Bedouins and herders. We have to

check areas with helicopters first and stop firing if someone wanders into range."

#### Leave at a shopping mall

Units have made their surroundings more comfortable as time has passed.

And Kuwaiti officials have come to the Americans and offered to provide some relief from the desert. Keeping a discreet profile in civilian clothes, and in small numbers, American soldiers have experienced a taste of daily life in Kuwait through traditional gatherings called diwanis, sporting and

cultural events, and shopping.

"The malls were the biggest surprise," says Spc. Jennifer Kelly of West Des Moines, Iowa, part of a Patriot anti-missile battery. "They are so advanced - better than ours."

But the 40,000 sandbags have long been filled at this desert fire base - forming a four-mile perimeter of sand berms - and the threat has decreased.

Today the most important moment of the day is the mail run - not the Scud missile alarm tests that send troops to

their bunkers and vehicles with their gas masks.

Now there is time to consider that radio forgotten in February, when in the rush of the crisis it "didn't seem that important," says Spc. Jeffrey Benoit of Wayne, Maine, a tank crewman.

"It's not difficult to keep alert, because if Iraq did something stupid, we all have itchy trigger fingers," crewman Benoit says.

"But at the back of our minds we know family and friends are waiting."

Washington Post

May 7, 1998

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## Panel Ties NSA Funds To Changes At Agency

### Report Urges Strategic, Business Planning

By Walter Pincus  
Washington Post  
Staff Writer

The House intelligence committee threatened yesterday to withhold funds from the \$4 billion National Security Agency (NSA) unless the worldwide eavesdropping organization makes "very large changes" in its "culture and methods of operation."

"Fences have been placed on portions of the [NSA] budget with the prospect that a considerable amount of money could be programmed for other intelligence community needs if NSA does not develop strategic and business planning," the House panel said in its report on the fiscal 1999 Intelligence Authorization Act released yesterday. The panel is chaired by Rep. Porter J. Goss (R-Fla.), a former CIA case officer.

Indicating its frustration with the 25,000-person agency, based at Fort George G. Meade, Md., the committee said that NSA budget and support staff cuts ordered by Congress last year "all have met resistance and have been deflected from their intended purpose."

Although the committee gave NSA more funds to deal with the explosion in telecommunications technology in the coming years, the panel said members were unhappy that similar funds provided last year were "minimized" and NSA officials "cannot track allocations for critical functions that

cross the old program and bureaucratic lines."

One of the agency's major problems, the committee said, comes from its various elements associated with the Army, Navy and Air Force "bubbling up disparate ideas and programs" and "expending much of its energy on probable duplication."

The committee also called on CIA Director George J. Tenet to take a more active role in managing the overall intelligence community budget of about \$27 billion. More than 85 percent of that money goes to Pentagon-run intelligence agencies, while roughly \$3 billion goes to the Central Intelligence Agency, which Tenet runs.

The committee criticized the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), which spends more than \$6 billion a year to develop, build and manage the satellites that collect imagery and signals intelligence, saying

last year's hopes that the switch to smaller satellites and acquisition reforms would free some funds have "not been fulfilled."

Tenet "needs to exercise much more knowledgeable and diligent oversight of NRO programs with an eye to freeing up funds for investment elsewhere, wherever possible," the panel report said.

One congressional source noted that Tenet, who took over as director of central intelligence last year, has been building his own team to enable him to play a more active role in the budgetary process for the intelligence community.

The report suggested that the committee and Tenet are already exploring "the benefits of cost caps" for NRO as a way "to discipline the acquisition system."

One major concern of the committee has been the failure to build new capabilities in espionage and covert action, according to the report. Details

on proposed initiatives in those areas, however, were not discussed in the unclassified report released yesterday. Detailed proposals on new hirings for the clandestine side of the CIA were contained in a classified report that accompanied the fiscal 1999 bill, sources said.

One new initiative in the bill is the authorization for a one-time transfer of an undisclosed sum from the intelligence community to the State Department to help pay for security in embassies and other overseas government facilities that are occupied by the CIA and other intelligence organizations.

Another provision in the bill provides, for the first time, armed protection for current and former CIA personnel and their families when Tenet or his successor determines it is necessary. The new protection is needed, the panel said, because of the large number of threats the agency and its personnel are receiving.

## US Marines Launch Assault On Chicago Sewers

*In A Major Shift In Tactics, Corps Is Training On Urban Streets To Prepare For 21<sup>st</sup> Century Warfare.*

Laura Gatland  
Special to The  
Christian Science Monitor

CHICAGO - A crack Marine Corps unit showed up in Chicago this week - not to do

battle but to learn about sewers and subways.

Armed with pens and quizzical looks, the burr-headed marines are part of an effort by the Marines to hone their skills for urban warfare in

the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

For generations, marines have been trained to fight on beaches, deserts, and other open battlefields. Now, with much of the world's population expected to shift to urban areas

Christian Science  
Monitor  
May 7, 1998  
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over the next 20 years, they are learning how to confront the enemy amid the mirror-skinned skyscrapers and crowded sidewalks of downtown America. It represents one of the biggest shifts in Marine Corps tactics in 70 years.

"This really is the first time we've actually gone into a city and looked to see what's involved in the infrastructure and terrain," says Lt. Col. Jenny Holbert, an officer for the Marines Corps Warfighting Laboratory in Quantico, Va., which is in charge of the training.

For the 80 officers involved, it was a clipboard exercise. The marines didn't rappel down the Sears Tower brandishing M-16s or dig foxholes in Wrigley Field.

Instead, they toured some of Chicago's antiquated sewer tunnels, learned about electrical grids, and took notes on police communication tactics. The only conspicuous things, per-

haps, were the fatigues.

"They're out here to train their minds," says Marines Lt. Col. Tom O'Leary.

Behind the new thrust is the prediction that 70 percent of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2020.

Although marines have fought in urban areas from Seoul to Somalia, the landscape has changed dramatically. When they fought in Hue City, Vietnam, in 1968, for instance, the tallest buildings were just three stories high. By their own admission, Marine Corps officials say they aren't ready for combat in urban environments. Indeed, they point out that city streets are tough places to wage war because of the density of buildings and people and problems with mobility and communication. "If we're going to do our job right, we've got to figure out how to fight and operate in an urban environment," Colonel Holbert

says.

The visit to Chicago is part of a Marines experiment called Urban Warrior, in which officers are developing new combat methods and equipment to wage wars in foreign cities. Over the next year, marines will descend on New York City and Camp Lejeune, N.C., for training and will conduct tactical exercises in Jacksonville, Fla. The experiment began last year with training in a model town at Camp Lejeune and will finish next March with a mock battle in a still-undisclosed West Coast city.

Techniques officers are developing include how to maneuver through streets and alleys, how to move around inside buildings when the power is out and how to handle hazards like sewers. "We're also trying to figure out how to cross from the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of one skyscraper to the ninth floor of another," Holbert says.

The last time the Marine

Corps looked seriously at any kind of new tactics was during the 1920s and '30s, when amphibious assaults were developed.

The goal for the Chicago visit is to learn more about "how a city operates so that we will be better at fighting in any city of the world," Holbert says. The Windy City was chosen as a training ground because it features most of the major elements of an urban setting: skyscrapers, sewers, subways, and crowded sidewalks. Nothing was said about its famed deep-dish pizza.

Local officials welcomed the marines, which may have been the biggest contingent of fatigues in the city since the 1968 Democratic convention.

"We were happy to cooperate - one reason being that we may learn something from them [about] security," says John Camper, of Mayor Richard Daley's office.

Washington Times

May 7, 1998

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## Embassy Row

by James Morrison

### Frankly, NATO

Six Senate supporters of NATO expansion grilled officials of the Western alliance on NATO's future mission on a recent visit to the organization's headquarters in Brussels.

"We had some rather frank discussions with the ambassadors from other NATO partners, concerning the future role of the United States in terms of the financial support of NATO, and some discussions about the problems related to further enlargements of NATO," Sen. Con-

rad Burns, Montana Republican, told reporters yesterday.

He said they met stiff resistance when he discussed his amendments to the NATO expansion treaty that capped future U.S. budget expenditures at the current level.

"Unfortunately, we ran into a little bit of a hailstorm," he said at a press conference called to review the May 1-5 trip to Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"Obviously, they're happy to have us continue to contribute far more than our share."

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas Republican, said they talked to NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana about the

alliance's changing mission, after the Senate approved the inclusion of three new NATO members.

"Let's have a strategy for just what we will and won't do," Mrs. Hutchison said.

"Are we going to have a NATO that not only is for our common defense, but for the common security threats outside of the NATO area? I think that's a very important question that needs to be addressed by our allies and be part of a strategy for the long term."

The other senators on the trip were Pete V. Domenici, New Mexico Republican; Bill Frist, Tennessee Republican; Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii Democrat; and Pat Roberts, Kansas Republican.

Pacific Stars & Stripes

May 8, 1998

Pg. 4

## Arms race would follow U.S. pullout, Kim warns

SEOUL — President Kim Dae-jung has told his military leaders that a pullout of U.S. troops from the country could trigger an arms race between Tokyo and Beijing and a military rivalry that would adversely affect South Korea.

At a luncheon meeting with his top commanders on Wednesday at Blue

House, the presidential mansion, Kim also reiterated his frequently stated belief that American troops should continue to be based here even if unification with North Korea is hammered out, a presidential spokesman said. Those forces, he said, help maintain peace and stability not only on the peninsula but throughout Northeast Asia.

U.S. officials support that view. For the past several years, American presidents and defense chiefs have said U.S.

troops will remain here "as long as the South Koreans want us here."

Kim also told his generals that they must continue to maintain a strong defense posture against the North.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting on Wednesday, Defense Minister Chun Yong-taek also told the top military brass not to let down the military guard as Kim attempts to persuade Pyongyang to sit down at a conference table with his administration, a spokesman said.

**INSIDE THE RING** Washington Times  
May 7, 1998  
Pg. 11  
by Ernest Blazar

### Fouled anchor

It took the president himself to straighten this Pentagon mess out.

On Tuesday, the defense secretary ordered the Navy aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower not to sail to the Persian Gulf a month early. So it will leave Norfolk as originally planned June 10.

For months, two carriers have patrolled the Gulf, currently the USS Independence and USS John Stennis. Indy — as she is known in the Navy — was due to exit the Gulf and return to her base in Japan around May 27. That is weeks before her relief — the Eisenhower — would arrive.

That led many Pentagon officials and reporters logically to conclude that the United States had decided to reduce its carrier presence in the Gulf to only one carrier — at least until the Eisenhower's late June arrival.

That would send an unmistakable signal to Iraq that tensions have eased. And that is what early wire stories that came out of the Pentagon yesterday said.

Problem is, that is not the message the president wanted to convey. Not just yet, anyway. Maybe.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen "has not recommended a final decision to me on this, and I have certainly not made one," President Clinton told reporters yesterday.

Consequently, Indy's exit from the Gulf now may be delayed to ensure that two carriers remain on station for the foreseeable future, a detail apparently lost for a few hours in the Pentagon yesterday.

### Deadly disconnect

The Pentagon said Tuesday that U.S. forces are stretched thin and cracks are showing, but it remains able to execute all its war plans.

"That includes the most difficult task that we would be called upon," said one of several top officers who asked not to be named by reporters, "and that is to engage in and be able to fight and win two near-simultaneous major theater wars."

Less sure about that are six senators who just visited American troops deployed in the Persian Gulf and Bosnia. They vowed yesterday to curtail those deployments while boosting the Penta-

gon budget because they fear the U.S. military risks going belly up.

"We are fast approaching a very serious situation," said Sen. Pat Roberts, Kansas Republican and a former Marine, "back to the days of a hollow military."

This kind of difference in opinion is what folks in uniform call a "disconnect."

The unusual Pentagon background briefing on military readiness Tuesday outlined the U.S. military's concerns about its own weak spots while affirming the overall force isn't broken.

Among the problems identified: an Air Force shortage of 1,800 pilots by 2002 and a lack of spare parts. The Navy is failing to recruit enough sailors to man ships and is also having "equipment readiness" problems like the Marine Corps. The Army must cut thousands more troops to free up money for gas, bullets and other items needed for training.

But — top Pentagon generals and admirals claimed — these troubles don't mean the four services are busted.

Listen to one senior Army official, who echoed the claims made by his Air Force, Marines and Navy colleagues: "I know exactly what a hollow force looks like. It was pretty ugly back then, and we are nowhere near being a hollow force today."

What the generals and admirals could not say is when things are going to get better. And that is enough to prompt concerned lawmakers to act.

"My overall impression," said Sen. Bill Frist, Tennessee Republican, "is that we are stretched in terms of morale and equipment as well as mission."

His New Mexico Republican colleague, Sen. Pete Domenici, said: "I frankly believe we need a much more forthright evaluation of military needs by this administration. And I think if they need more money, which it's obvious to me they do, they ought to ask for it."

### Clumsy spin

The art of "spin" is defined as the presentation of a reflection or deflection of the truth for one's advantage.

But it must have an element of truth to it, something apparently

missing from the White House's latest effort to free itself from a self-inflicted mess over the closing of military bases.

Readers recall a leaked April 26 Air Force memo that disclosed White House interest in protecting jobs at a California Air Force base. That maddened Capitol Hill because competition between military bases for work is supposed to be free of political tinkering.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart said Tuesday that nothing improper happened. "White House officials did not ask the Department of Defense to encourage Lockheed to bid," he said.

In fact, Mr. Lockhart told the Associated Press, the Pentagon "volunteered to talk to Lockheed." Moreover, Mr. Lockhart contends that presidential aide "John Podesta or others did not ask [the Pentagon] to encourage Lockheed to perform the work in Sacramento." And finally "the issue of where the work would be done was not discussed."

Any truth there? Let's look at what acting Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters actually wrote in his leaked memo (Inside the Ring has added italics to the key passage).

"John Podesta has asked that [Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre] mention the Sacramento depot competition to [Lockheed-Martin executive] Vance Coffman during your meeting(s) with him during the coming week. The points he would like you to make are to encourage Lockheed Martin (1) to bid to win the work and (2) to perform the work at Sacramento."

Either the leaked memo is lying, or someone at the White House isn't telling the truth. The House National Security Committee yesterday vowed an investigation.

### Unvarnished

"Saudi officials told us that, in effect, that Saddam Hussein is jerking our chain; every time he does something, we overreact," Sen. Conrad Burns, Montana Republican, May 5, upon his return from a trip to the Persian Gulf.

• Ernest Blazar can be reached at 703/486-3949 and by e-mail (blazar@twtmil.com).

# Congress Backing Bases

## Closures Run Into Roadblock

Los Angeles Daily News

May 5, 1998

Pg. AV1

By Jim Skeen  
Daily News Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., are miles apart ideologically, but when the subject turns to base closures they sound like they are on the same page.

"We haven't saved one nickel," Stump said of previous closures. "This House, this Congress is not going to listen to them."

Boxer points out that military units must be relocated from a closed base and new facilities built elsewhere, digging into the projected savings from a closure.

"They have not met expectations in terms of dollars saved," Boxer said.

The Clinton administration call for two more rounds of base closures is running into a solid wall of bipartisan opposition.

Unless Defense Secretary

William Cohen can find a more persuasive argument or a way to apply more heat, this Congress and quite possibly the next will not approve more base closures, representatives said.

Tim Ransdell, executive director of the California Institute for Federal Policy Research, a nonprofit organization that assists the California congressional delegation, said he does not expect the issue to be taken up until after the presidential election in 2000.

Cohen is taking his arguments for more base closures to the public, making the rounds on the news talk show circuit and writing opinion pieces for newspapers. Among Cohen's arguments is that without the base closures he will begin pulling jobs and units away from bases he selects on his own, as the only way to meet the military's responsibilities with shrinking defense budgets.

If Congress agrees to a for-

mal base closure process, Cohen says, the affected communities would receive some federal assistance in finding other roles for their installations.

Aerospace consultants for the city of Lancaster say something simply has to give as the defense budget shrinks but the number of bases stays the same.

In a draft of a position paper calling for consolidating test and evaluation work in the Southwest, on bases ranging from the Naval Air Weapons Station, Point Mugu, to White Sands in New Mexico, the consultants argue bases deserving to stay open are suffering from too few dollars being spread too far.

The consultants, headed by former Edwards Air Force Base official Bob Johnstone, say consolidation, done after a fair and objective analysis, is needed.

"Continuing to inadequately

fund all bases when the reduced workload cannot support the existing infrastructure will force gross inefficiencies, reduce the capability to meet (Department of Defense's) war-fighting requirements, and reach the wrong long-term answer because of a series of short-term decisions," their paper said.

The consultants fault the previous base closure process for overlooking the advantages they say Western bases have over Eastern bases.

It didn't take into consideration such things as high-traffic commercial air lanes over sea ranges in the Atlantic, the benefits from joint use of Western ranges, and the days of clear weather for testing and training in the West, they say.

With Congress balking at base closures, any consolidations will become highly political unless some sort of system of checks and balances is installed, the consultants said.

South China Morning Post May 6, 1998 Pg.10

## US Official Visits Mainland To Improve Military Ties

By Willy Wo-Lap Lam

A senior American defence official is in Beijing to discuss further improvements to military ties with China.

In talks with military officers yesterday, Assistant Secretary of Defence Franklin Kramer discussed the forthcoming visit to Beijing by President Bill Clinton.

There have been reports that Mr Clinton may agree to lift the remaining Tiananmen-related sanctions on the transfer of military technology to China.

While meeting Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission General Zhang Wannian, Mr Kramer said the US "recognises the important common interests with China".

"The US hopes that relations between the two armed forces can be improved in conjunction with the growth of

bilateral relations," Xinhua quoted Mr Kramer as saying.

Expressing approval of joint efforts to develop a "constructive and strategic partnership" between the two countries, he added: "The US is anticipating a successful visit by President Clinton to China."

General Zhang recalled that during a visit by President Jiang Zemin to the United States in October, the two presidents reached a "common understanding on co-operation between the armed forces of the two countries".

"China is ready to make concerted efforts with the US in a bid to bring these understandings to fruition," he said.

General Zhang said he would visit the US "within the year".

Diplomatic sources said he postponed a trip which had been planned for March or April because he was recovering from cancer surgery.

Boston Globe

May 6, 1998

## Raytheon Could Fetch Up To \$800m In Tomahawk Pact

By Tony Capaccio  
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON -- Congress gave the Navy permission to start development of Raytheon Co.'s newest model of the Tomahawk cruise missile, a program that could be worth \$800 million to the company, company and service officials said.

The Navy will issue Raytheon a new contract within the next three weeks to develop and eventually produce 1,350 Tomahawks with better range, accuracy and combat punch -- at about half the cost of today's missile, the officials said.

The contract is significant to Raytheon because it is a major step toward continuing the Tomahawk production line through about 2007. It is also a victory for the Defense Department's efforts to reduce

weapons costs.

"At a cost of \$569,000 per missile, approximately half that of today's Tomahawk, performance capabilities will be even greater than those of the present system," said Lieutenant Denise Shorey, a Navy spokeswoman.

The price is contingent on the Navy buying all 1,350 missiles, and that will require later congressional approval.

Raytheon shares fell 3/16 to 56 11/16.

The Navy plans to buy the first 10 missiles starting in 2001. After the missile is introduced into the fleet in 2003, and assuming it works as intended, the Navy plans to buy 115 of the new Tomahawks in 2003, 200 in 2004, and 342 each year in the 2005 through 2007, Shorey said.

"We are happy to know we have the full support of Congress for tactical Tomahawk," said Raytheon spokesman David Shea. "We see no remaining obstacles to getting on contract in the next few weeks." The missile will be

developed and produced at a Raytheon plant in Tucson, Ariz.

The top tactical Tomahawk subcontractors are Allegheny Teledyne Inc. of Pittsburgh, which will produce the engines, and Honeywell Inc. of Minneapolis, which will produce the missile's guidance system and altimeter to measure altitude.

The plan reflects the Navy's desire to develop new cruise missiles that can be retargeted in flight and take pictures of

target areas to assess damage.

Hughes Aircraft Co. and its defense units, including the missile company, in December became a part of Raytheon.

The Navy in October sought congressional approval to jump-start the new program by shifting \$23 million to develop the new missiles from procurement for the last batch of older Tomahawks.

Because that was a shift of money that was already approved, Congress didn't need to pass a bill, but four congress-

sional committees needed to sign off on the shift. The last of the panels gave its approval late last week. Congress will need to pass legislation approving spending for the remainder of the potential \$800 million program.

The committees initially delayed shifting the \$23 million, saying the Navy failed to make a case that the program was cost-effective or that the acquisition strategy was sound, according to reports for this

year's defense budget.

Congressional staffers also voiced concerns the Navy started the new program in part to rescue Raytheon from losing money on the existing Tomahawk contract.

An audit by the Pentagon's inspector general concluded no bailout was involved and the program was well managed.

"The Navy documented requirements for a cheaper, more flexible Tomahawk," the inspector general reported.

## President Clinton didn't 'play dirty' in base closings

Washington Times

May 7, 1998

Pg. 20

Your Inside the Ring column of May 4, "No respect," repeats an unfounded accusation that has become a mantra in the media and in some quarters of Congress. Namely, that President Clinton "played dirty" during the last round of military base closings by "keeping open" two Air Force bases that the 1995 base-closing panel had "ordered closed." Let's review the facts.

First, under the 1990 base-closing law, no president can selectively overrule an independent Base Closing and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to keep a particular base open. The law gives the president an "all or nothing" choice: He can only forward the BRAC's proposed base-closing and realignment list to Congress for final approval if he approves all of its recommendations.

This is exactly what happened in

1995. The BRAC recommended, over the objections of the Department of Defense, that Defense close the huge Air Force depots in Sacramento, Calif., (McClellan) and San Antonio (Kelly). On July 13, 1995, Mr. Clinton forwarded the BRAC recommendations in their entirety to Congress, which then approved the whole list. Both bases—McClellan and Kelly—will be closed within a few years, in full compliance with the base-closing law.

Second, in addition to accepting, however reluctantly, the 1995 BRAC recommendation that the two bases be closed, the president took pains to ensure that his directives to the Defense Department to privatize the workloads performed there were also fully consistent with the BRAC's report.

In a July 8, 1995, letter, BRAC Chairman Alan Dixon affirmed that the commission's recommendations

with respect to Kelly and McClellan authorized the transfer of these workloads "to any other [Defense Department] depot or to any private section commercial activity, local or otherwise, including privatization in place."

Last, it is important to note that the principal reason the president sought in 1995 to privatize the Kelly and McClellan work in place was to avoid the disruption in military readiness that a relocation of these crucial logistics support facilities to other depots would cause—the same rationale the Defense Department had emphasized in its original recommendation to the BRAC.

ROBERT G. BELL

Special assistant to the president for national security affairs  
National Security Council  
Washington

**Editor's Note:** The column referred to appeared in the *Current News Early Bird*, May 4, 1998, Pg. 16.

Washington Post

May 7, 1998

Pg. B3

### The Reliable Source

By Annie Groer and Ann Gerhart

#### The Army Puts Up Its Duke

There's an airport named for John Wayne in Orange County, Calif., and a statue of the late, macho actor outside a Beverly Hills bank. Come Tuesday, we'll also have "The Duke," an Army stealth reconnaissance helicopter.

Two headliners at the Capitol reflecting pool ceremony: The Comanche RAH-66 chopper and country singer Garth Brooks, a longtime Wayne fan. Invitees include

Wayne kin, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and assorted Pentagon brass. The event is part of the USO of Metropolitan Washington's salute to the military.

The macho Wayne earned his first Oscar nomination in 1949 playing Marine Sgt. John Stryker in "Sands of Iwo Jima." An unabashed flag-waver, he starred in morale-boosting USO tours from World War II to Vietnam.

And if it rains Tuesday? The Duke, of course, would brave the downpour and mud. But USO organizers promise a nice, cozy tent.

European Stars & Stripes

May 7, 1998

Pg. 6

## Lawyer Claims Retaliation After Harassment Complaint

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A civilian lawyer working for the Army says her complaints of sexual harassment by a top officer were dismissed as lies and answered with a smear campaign. Kelly Theriot, a civilian lawyer at Madigan Army Medical Center near Tacoma, claims Col. Darrel Porr made "unwelcome advances, touchings, comments and gestures" between September 1995 and February 1996.

Theriot, 36, one of six regional medical claims lawyers for the Army, told a federal

jury Tuesday that top officers conspired to protect Porr and make her look bad when she spoke out.

Porr was deputy commander of the regional medical center at the time and now is a brigadier general who commands the 44th Medical Brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Theriot claims Porr stroked her arm, tried to kiss her on the lips, repeatedly commented on her clothing and appearance, and asked personal questions. Under cross-examination, Theriot conceded that many

incidents she saw as harassment could have been innocent. Army Maj. Michele Williams questioned whether there was anything wrong with Porr complimenting Theriot, patting her arm or giving her a pager. She also got Theriot to agree that on the day of the alleged kissing incident, Porr's office door was open and several employees were close by. Theriot

said her lawsuit, seeking unspecified damages, is less about sexual harassment than about retaliation after she complained to Army investigators and eventually sued.

She said high-ranking officers took away large parts of her duties and powers, ignored her opinions and created a "horrible, horrible work environment."

Washington Post May 7, 1998 Pg. 26

## India Offers Kinder Words to China

**NEW DELHI**—India sought to mollify China over remarks made by Defense Minister George Fernandes that have strained relations between the giant neighbors, saying it was committed to improving ties. "India remains committed . . . to the development of a friendly, cooperative, good neighborly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbor," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement.

Fernandes said in a lecture Sunday that China's military "encirclement" of India was cause for concern.

Washington Post May 7, 1998 Pg. D2

## Federal Diary

### Why Some Defense Employees Feel Insecure

By Mike Causey

Life is tough when your job security depends on the antics of somebody like Saddam Hussein. That's why some Defense Department civilians, who managed to dodge a decade of downsizing bullets, still have job jitters.

The Army, Navy and Air Force are under pressure from many sides to close more bases and whack more civilian and military jobs.

Thousands of civilians feel trapped in an often conflicting and confusing cross-fire. Most of the 300,000 federal jobs already cut by the Clinton administration were in Defense agencies.

Civilians who want to complete a full career must navigate at least three separate minefields: cuts imposed by Congress and the White House; cuts resulting from continuing base closings and staff reductions; and an in-house plan to streamline the Defense establishment. That plan (first outlined here Sept. 2) would have a much-reduced career civil service corps supported by an increased number of temporary workers and outside contractors.

In some cases, civilian and military personnel will compete for jobs. In many more, civilians will compete with contractors. Thousands of

"commercial-type" jobs will be turned over to private industry.

A pending congressional plan (outlined here April 27) would farm out to the private sector many activities now done by government. It would let managers contract out functions with 10 or fewer employees and force agencies to list all their commercial-type activities and then turn over 20 percent of those jobs each year, for five years, to industry.

According to the General Accounting Office, cuts outlined just in the Quadrennial Defense Review, not other sources, would eliminate 33,700 Army civilians, 8,400 Navy civilians, 18,300 Air Force civilians and 400 Marine Corps civilians. Other downsizing efforts -- although some overlap with the review mandate -- could mean even bigger job cuts. Confusing? Yes!

The GAO says some of the service goals may be unrealistic because they are "incomplete or based on optimistic assumptions about the potential to achieve savings through outsourcing and reengineering and may not be implemented by fiscal year 2003 as originally anticipated."

The cross-fire and confusion is one reason some workers panic when a stranger with clipboard or calculator roams through the office.

European Stars & Stripes  
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## Flier Won't Be Stripped

*Navy navigator's exit not affected by her poses in Playboy*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP) — The Navy has taken action against an officer who posed nude for Playboy magazine but will let her out of the service this week as scheduled.

The Navy said in a statement it took what it considers "appropriate administrative action, non-punitive in nature" against Lt. Frederica Spilman, a navigator with a jet squadron at Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

Typically, that's something like a letter warning of inappropriate behavior that does not become part of an officer's permanent file. The Navy could have kept her on active duty past her scheduled discharge date if it decided to administer

stronger action, officials explained earlier.

Spilman, who is to be discharged today, appears in Playboy's June issue wearing opened flight jackets, camouflage lingerie and dog tags. The six-page pictorial, under the heading "Fly Girl," also includes pictures of Spilman in her Navy uniform and flight suit.

Spilman, a 28-year-old Naval Academy graduate, told Playboy she felt posing for the magazine was part of being able to "savor the freedoms which I am protecting."

"Most guys think women in the military aren't attractive," she said. "I wanted to show my feminine side."

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## Yeltsin claims Uzbekistan, Russia resolve differences

**MOSCOW** — Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin and Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov declared a breakthrough yesterday in relations long overshadowed by mistrust over Moscow's role in Central Asia.

"We agreed on everything. No empty or blank spots remain,"

Yeltsin said. "It is up to us now to work harder to carry out all that we have agreed." Officials on both sides acknowledged before the talks that relations needed improving. Many observers are skeptical they can be mended quickly.

The two presidents also agreed to resist what they regard as religious extremism and nationalism in Central Asia, and forged a "troika" with the Tajik leadership to try to end violence in Tajikistan.

## Afghan opposition agrees to resume talks with Taliban

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — The Afghan opposition alliance offered

yesterday an immediate resumption of peace talks after the Islamic Taliban movement agreed to allow emergency food relief into an opposition-held region threatened with starvation.

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